

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3840

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014

JUTE PRODUCTION

Trivedi Shri Dinesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any divergence in data/estimates of jute production provided by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics and the Jute Advisory Board over the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) has recommended to constitute a high level committee to look into this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Ministry in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The details of production estimates of Jute provided by Jute Advisory Board (JAB) vis-à-vis the official estimates released by Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES), Ministry of Agriculture for 2012-13 to 2014-15 are as under :-

Year Production (Lakh Bales)

As estimated by Jute Advisory Board As per official estimates released by DES

2012-13 93.00 103.40

2013-14 90.00 109.82#

2014-15 86.00 108.70#

#As per 4th Advance Estimates # As per 1st Advance Estimates

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in its report on Price Policy for Jute: 2014-15 Season, recommended that "a high level committee needs to be constituted to examine the issues of wide divergence between the production estimates given by DES and JAB."

While the JAB's estimates of jute production are based taking into account the views of its members such as Indian Jute Mills Association, Jute Corporation of India, Jute Balers' Association, Directorate of Jute Development, etc., the official estimates released by DES are prepared on the basis of a statistically sound methodology and are considered to be reliable. Also, generally, the estimates prepared by two different organizations, based on totally different methods and sources of data do not match.

As such, the Ministry of Agriculture considers that no additional purpose may be served by constituting a high level committee to examine the issues of divergence between the estimates prepared by the two agencies. Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute (IASRI) has been asked to examine this issue.